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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 7, 2003

1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for November 7, 2003. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

2. Milliyet, Radikal, Ozgur Gundem / A Swedish Social Democrat human rights commission delegation visited Diyarbakir and Mardin. During the delegation's visit with Mardin Governor Temel Kocaklar, Anne Ludvigsson, head of the delegation, stated that the EU Harmonization Package is not being actively applied in Turkey.

3. Sabah, Radikal, Ozgur Gundem, Yeni Safak / The court hearing in the case of a woman allegedly raped by 405 soldiers in 1993-1994 commenced on November 5 in Mardin. The Mardin Court commission wanted to hear the testimony from the doctor who approved report, confirming use of torture. The hearing will recommence on December 11.

4. Turkiye, Evrensel / In Bingol on November 5, during Turkish army operations, three KADEK terrorists and one Turkish army officer were killed, while two KADEK terrorists and three Turkish army officers were wounded. Turkiye also reports that two KADEK terrorists were captured with their guns and important documents.

5. Ozgur Gundem / In Mus and Mersin, seven people were arrested because they joined in a meeting organized for peace.

6. Ozgur Gundem / Hasan Fidan, a Van village guard, was arrested and put in jail because he allegedly raped a disabled woman in Yankitepe, Erzurum, Van province.

7. Hurriyet / Hatay Governor Abdullah Sari announced that the Syrian and Turkish governments have made arrangements to invite approximately 5000 people from both countries to get together with their relatives and celebrate the Ramadan festival in Reyhanli. The Turkish government will be hosting these 5000 people.

8. Turkiye / At the Cilvegozu border gate, Reyhanli, Hatay, police found 75.5 kg of heroine, and detained Yunus Ucak as a suspect in the incident.

9. Evrensel / Adana Human Rights Organization prison spokesman Ethem Acikalin announced that prisoners in Kurkculer prison are systematically being tortured.

10. Cumhuriyet / In Tunceli, approximately 700 high school students, along with some DEHAP members, attempted to close a main road in order to make a press release protesting AKP education policy. Police warned the group and detained some of the protestors, including DEHAP Tunceli head Alican Unlu.

